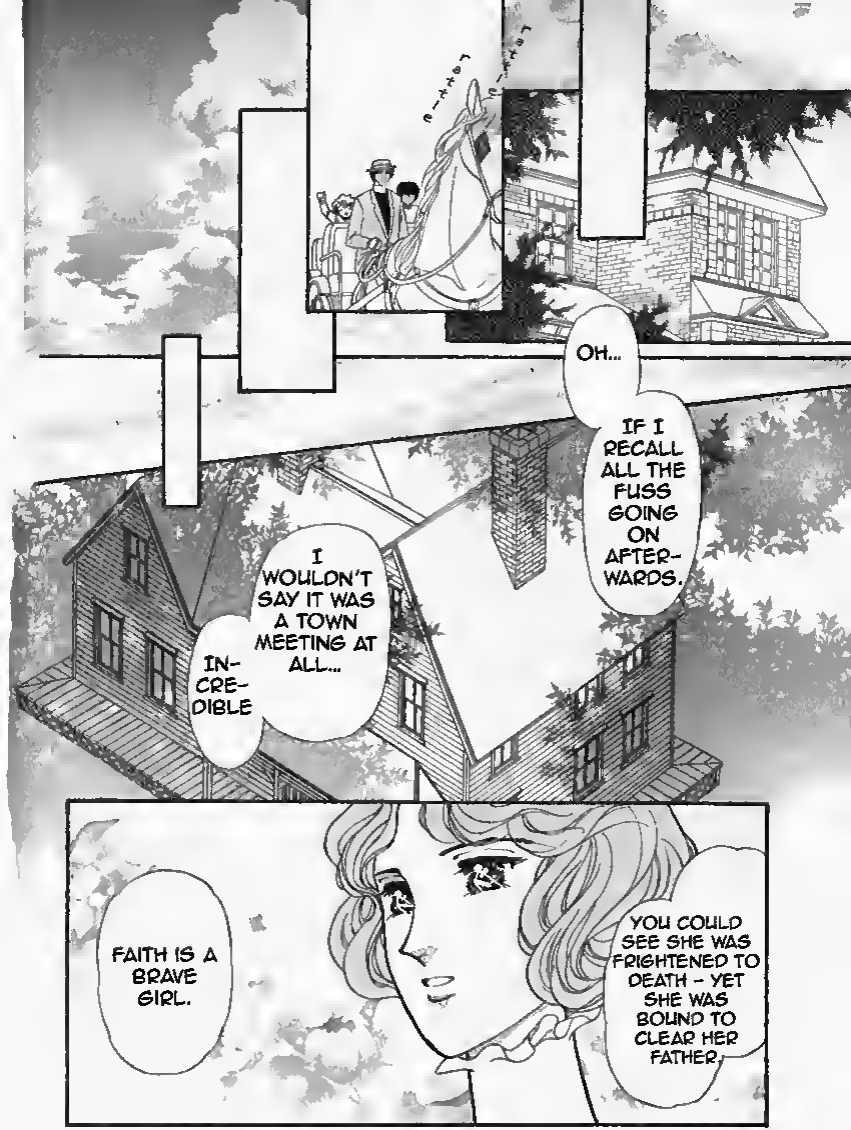
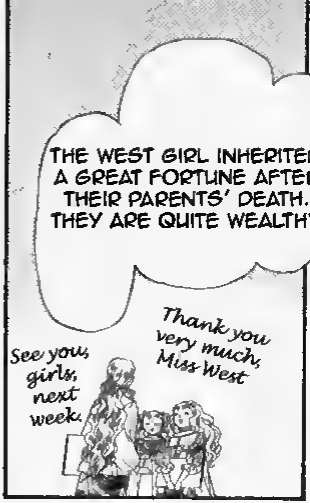
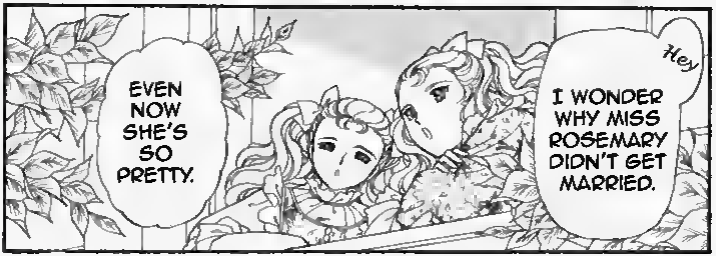

Father!
Father!
OH...
IF I RECALL ALL THE FUSS GOING ON AFTER-WARDS.
I WOULDN'T SAY IT WAS A TOWN MEETING AT ALL...
IN-CRE-DIBLE
YOU COULD SEE SHE WAS FRIGHTENED TO DEATH - YET SHE WAS BOUND TO CLEAR HER FATHER.
FAITH IS A BRAVE GIRL.

THEY INHERIT IT FROM THEIR FATHER...
MR. MEREDITH ALSO HAS A MYSTERIOUS CHARM OF HIS OWN.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT MARY, THOSE CHILDREN AMAZED ME UTTERLY WITH THEIR REQUEST.
BUT ANYWAY I CAN'T BLAME THEM AT ALL.
YES.
SHE CHARGES ME VERY LITTLE FOR THE GIRLS' MUSIC LESSONS.
OH, BUT THAT'S MISS ROSEMARY WEST.

GOOD MORNING, ROSEMARY.
GOOD MORNING, MRS. ELLIOTT.
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP OF TEA?


THE WEST GIRL INHERITED A GREAT FORTUNE AFTER THEIR PARENTS' DEATH. THEY ARE QUITE WEALTHY.
Thank you very much, Miss West
See you, girls, next week.

EXCUSE ME.
THANK YOU, BUT MY SISTER IS WAITING FOR ME.


EVEN NOW SHE'S SO PRETTY.
Hey
I WONDER WHY MISS ROSEMARY DIDN'T GET MARRIED.

I'VE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME TEN YEARS AGO HER FIANCÉE HAS PASSED AWAY IN AN ACCIDENT. SHE HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN HIM...?
YES, THAT IS TRUE.
BUT THERE ARE ALSO OTHER REASONS.
rustling sweater

MR. MEREDITH...
...AND YOU ARE?
ROSEMARY WEST.
OH... WE HAVE MET ONCE OR TWICE IN CHURCH
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YOU. DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN...?

THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL SPRING IN THE BIRCH WOOD.
SOMETIMES, WHEN I RETURN FROM VISITING MY PARISHIONERS.
ITS WATER IS CHILLY AND CLEAR LIKE ICE.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS SPRING FROM WALTER BLYTHE.
AND YOU?
NO.
I...
DID YOU ALSO COME FOR A DRINK?
YES ...
GULP GULP
GULP GULP

HERE IS A CUP.
OH,
THANK YOU
HERE ...
THERE WAS ANOTHER MAN WHO OFFERED ME TO DRINK IN THIS PLACE.
AND WHERE IS HE NOW? ...
HE PASSED AWAY IN AN ACCIDENT AT SEA.
BUT THAT WAS SO MANY YEARS AGO.

I HAVE ALSO LOST THE ONE I LOVED DUE TO ILLNESS.
EVEN I THE HEART'S WOUNDS ARE HEALED,
THE MEMORIES ALWAYS STAY WITH US.
MR. MEREDITH,
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR WIFE...?
SWOOSH

castle
THAT IS...
GOOD EVENING, ROSEMARY.
I'VE MET HIM BY THE SPRING AND HE WAS SO KIND TO WALK ME HOME.
THIS IS MY OLDER SISTER, ELLEN.
GOOD EVENING, MISS ELLEN.
PLEASE COME IN, MR. MEREDITH.
LET ME OFFER YOU A CUP OF TEA.

PLEASE COME AND VISIT US ANYTIME.
GOOD BYE, MR. MEREDITH.
I'M GLAD TO HAVE TALKED WITH YOU, MISS ROSEMARY.
THANK YOU,
BUT I HAVE TO GO BACK TONIGHT.
I BELIEVED HIM TACITURN, BUT HE'S A VERY EASYGOING AND CAREFREE PERSON TO TALK TO.
ABOUT MUSIC, AND TREES...
WHAT HAVE YOU TALKED ABOUT?
MR. MEREDITH IS A WIDOWER FOR SURE
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT HIM, ROSEMARY?

I'VE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR BEING FRIENDS WITH HIM, BUT IT MUSTN'T GO BEYOND FRIENDSHIP.
REMEMBER ...
THINK THAT I AM AN OLD MAID.
YOU MAY NOT FORGET THE PROMISE WE'VE MADE.
DON'T SAY ANYTHING MORE, ELLEN.
HE IS STILL THINKING ABOUT HIS DEAD WIFE.
FIRST.

I KNOW, ELLEN.
I DON'T FOR-GET.
THERE'S NO NEED TO FORGET.
THERE'S NO NEED TO REMIND ME OF IT.
THE SEASON OF MY YOUTH...
A LONG TIME AGO...
GONE ...
... HAS ALREADY GONE BY...

gong
ding
dong

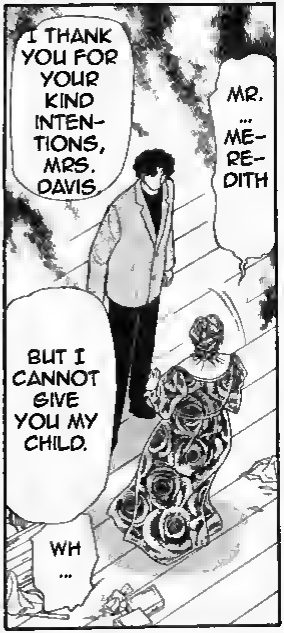
Unbelievable!
WHAT A SCANDALOUS ROOM!
Coke
EXCUSE ME,
Mr Meredith.
MR. MEREDITH!
Coke
Stupid fowl!
SHOO THERE!
Flutter
YOU'RE MRS. DAVIS, RIGHT?
GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. MEREDITH.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I HAVE SOME-THING IMPORTANT TO SAY.
WELL, TODAY I...
Humph
I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU, MR. MERE-DITH, THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO ADOPT UNA.
TODAY ...? WHAT IS IT ABOUT ?
A-BOUT UNA ...?

I'VE BEEN THINKING IT OVER FOR SOME TIME. I HAVE OFTEN THOUGHT OF ADOPTING A CHILD, SINCE MY HUSBAND'S DEATH.
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN.
SO I WANT A FOSTER CHILD... ACTUALLY A FOSTER DAUGHTER.
I HAVE NO IDEA OF ADOPTING THRASH CHILDREN LIKE THE ONES TO BE FOUND IN THIS AREA. I WANT A GIRL-A QUIET, OBEDIENT GIRL THAT I COULD TRAIN UP TO BE A LADY. A CHILD THAT I CAN HELP.
I WOULD NEVER DREAM OF ADOPTING FAITH.
SUCH A STRONG MINDED CHILD.
It's not a joke!
UNA WILL SUIT ME EXACTLY.
I'LL TAKE UNA AND I'LL GIVE HER A GOOD HOME, AND UP-BRINGING, MR. MEREDITH, AND IF SHE BEHAVES HERSELF I'LL LEAVE HER ALL MY MONEY WHEN I DIE. UNA SHALL BE WELL DRESSED AND EDUCATED AND TRAINED, MR. MEREDITH, AND I SHALL GIVE HER MUSIC AND PAINTING LESSONS AND TREAT HER AS IF SHE WERE MY OWN.
WELL, ALL THESE BEING SAID...

WELL ?

MY DEAD WIFE HAS LEFT ME THESE CHILDREN. THEY ARE AN IRREPLACEABLE TREASURE.
ALL THE WORLDLY ADVANTAGES IT IS IN YOUR POWER TO BESTOW
ON HER COULD NOT COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF A FATHER'S LOVE AND CARE...!


I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INTEN-TIONS, MRS. DAVIS.
MR. ... ME-RE-DITH
BUT I CANNOT GIVE YOU MY CHILD.
WH ...

YOU'RE AMAZED BECAUSE YOU HEAR OF A FATHER'S AFFECTION.
YOU'RE BEING SELF-IMPOR-TANT, MR. MERE-DITH.
I THANK YOU AGAIN-
-BUT IT IS NOT TO BE THO-UGHT OF.
Why!
THEY HAVE NO MORE MANNERS THAN A PACK OF WILD INDIANS.
BECAUSE NOBODY EVER SUPPOSED YOU CARED ANYTHING ABOUT ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN. YOU NEGLECT THEM SCANDALOUSLY. IT IS THE TALK OF THE PLACE. THEY AREN'T FED AND DRESSED PROPERLY, AND THEY'RE NOT TRAINED AT ALL.
LET US SAY GOOD AFTER-NOON, MRS. DAVIS!
THAT WILL DO, WOMAN! I DESIRE TO HEAR NO MORE. YOU HAVE SAID TOO MUCH.

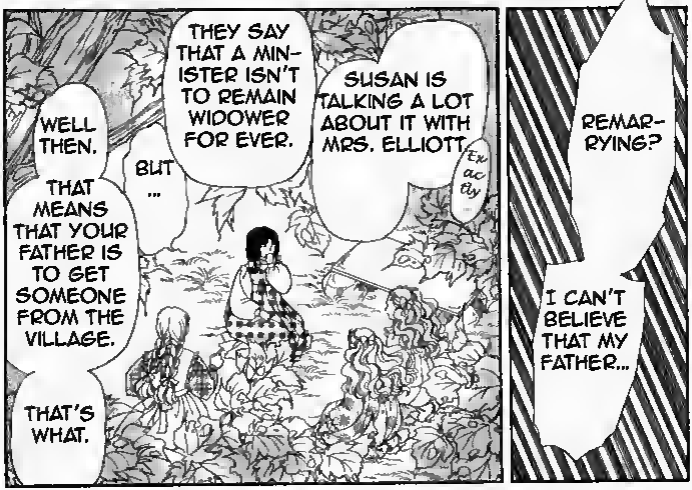
Humph.
I'M BACK.
I'M BACK, FATHER.
AAAAAAAAAA
Oh
Ah
YOU'LL REGRET THIS!
... DARKEN THE DOORS OF YOUR MANSE OR YOUR CHURCH AGAIN.
I'LL NEVER ...
MR. MEREDITH.

I'VE BEEN NEGLIGENT WITH MY OBLIGATIONS OF FATHER...
AFTER MY WIFE DIED.
UNA.
OH, CERTAINLY
WHAT HAPPENED, FATHER?
What did that mean?
IF ONLY YOUR MOTHER WAS ALIVE...
FATHER...?
— AND HE WENT OUT SAYING ...

OR ANOTHER WOMAN BESIDE ME!
OH, MR. MEREDITH.
I SEE.
I ONLY WANTED TO TALK TO THEM.
SEE YOU LATER.
DR. BLYTHE AND HIS WIFE AREN'T HERE NOW.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
OH, NOTHING.
WHAT'S GOING ON? HE'S COMPLETELY DISHEARTENED.
REALLY, MEN ARE A LOT OF TROUBLE.

Running water
MR. MEREDITH IS IRRESPONSIBLE. HE SHOULD CONSIDER REMARRYING.

... AND VISIT US ANYTIME.
MISS ROSEMARY ...
PLEASE COME ...


WELL THEN.
THAT MEANS THAT YOUR FATHER IS TO GET SOMEONE FROM THE VILLAGE.
THAT'S WHAT.
BUT ...
THEY SAY THAT A MINISTER ISN'T TO REMAIN WIDOWER FOR EVER.
SUSAN IS TALKING A LOT ABOUT IT WITH MRS. ELLIOTT.
Exactly
REMARRYING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MY FATHER...

STEPMOTHERS ALWAYS RUIN THE RELATION BETWEEN CHILDREN AND THEIR FATHER.
THEREFORE YOUR FATHER WILL GRADUALLY TAKE HER SIDE.
AND HE'LL END UP THINKING THAT YOU GUYS ARE BAD CHILDREN.
HOWEVER... DO YOU KNOW? IT IS TERRIBLE TO HAVE A STEPMOTHER.
MARY, that is
NO WAY...
FATHER IS NOT LIKE THAT...
I... I UNDERSTAND. I WAS JUST...
UNA IS THE ONE WHO CARED MOST FOR YOU.
Right.
HEY, MARY. I WON'T LET YOU MAKE UNA CRY.

I JUST BELIEVED IT WAS BEST TO HAVE HER PREPARED FOR WHAT IS TO COME.
I HOPE THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY STEPMOTHER HERE...
LISTEN, MOTHER ...
FATHER WON'T REMARRY...
THIS IS THE DRESS MOTHER WORE AT HER WEDDING.
IT LOOKS SO OLD NOW.

AND
HE LOVES US TOO...
FATHER LOVES STILL OUR MOTHER.
SUDDENLY?
I WONDER WHAT HAS HAPPENED.
HE WAS SUMMONED BY THE CHURCH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
HEY, WHERE IS FATHER GOING?

Meisaku Translations
http://meisakuworks.wordpress.com/

Niji no tani no An
by Chieko Hara

VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 5

SCANNED, TRANSLATED, EDITED BY DAMUDOKU

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